

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

**Eighth Sunday in Easter – Pentecost and
Memorial Day Weekend**



May 28, 2023

9:30 am

We Practice Just Peace: doing justice, seeking peace
We are Open and Affirming: welcoming LGBTQ+ people

☞ We Listen for the Still Speaking God

We are striving to be an Anti-Racism church

Our faith is 2000 years old; our thinking isn't.

Please inquire with people before assuming they are okay with physical contact.

GATHERING

Prelude

O Waly Waly

arr. Martha Sobaje

Welcome & Announcements

Please, if you are new to our community and want to be more involved, leave your email address in the attendance pad or email us at office@uccplymouth.org. We are delighted to get to know you! We have Sunday School between mid-September & mid-June. There are bags in the narthex which the kids may find to enjoy! You may contact office@uccplymouth.org to get more information about programming for any age.

Introit

I Will Not Leave You Orphaned

Aaron David Miller

*Those who are able may stand.

*Call to Worship

Liturgist – Rev. Sammy Holland

One: Come, Siblings in Christ, to witness how manifold and mysterious God's works truly are.

All: We come as one harmonious body made of many unique parts.

One: Come with your strengths and weaknesses, with your hopes and fears.

All: We lay everything we are at God's feet.

One: Come, let the Holy Spirit find a resting place within your heart.

All: Within each of us glows a flame that will never die out.

*Hymn

Fire of God, Undying Flame

NCH (black) #64

*Passing of the Peace

If you are at home, we invite you to send someone a note of peace today.

One: God be with you

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

Unison Gathering Prayer

Oh, Giver of Light and Love, we gather this morning yearning to feel your Spirit within our hearts. Help us make room among the doubts, fears, and prejudices that we cling to. Set us on the path towards peace and reconciliation so that we may find ourselves in harmony with all of your wondrous creation. Amen.

Moments for confession including silence for personal reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: God hears our words, both spoken and unspoken. God sees as we strive to do good and spread love, and also when we fail.

All: Thanks be to God for abundant grace, enduring strength, and endless compassion.

Response

Gathered Here

NCH (black) #742

Gathered here, in the mystery of this hour, gathered here in one strong body; gathered here in the struggle and the power, Spirit, draw near.

A Message for All Ages

Jennifer Byam

Children and youth are welcome to come forward during the message for all ages if they like. The message for all ages will truly be intergenerational this morning so if children want to stay in the pews that is okay too!

NCH (black) #325:

Child of joy, our dearest treasure, God's you are, from God you came.

Back to God we humbly give you; live as one who bears Christ's name.

HEARING THE WORD

Readings

Excerpt from Psalms for Praying by Nan Merrill

Acts 2:1-21

One: Here ends the readings from our tradition. Let us find wisdom for today in these ancient words. O Holy Spirit, we pray that your grace would move between words and hearing.

All: Amen.

Message

“How Is It That We Hear?”

Alison Thatcher

***Hymn**

They'll Know We Are Christians

Guitar capo: 1; play Em

Unison Em

1. We are one in the Spir - it, we are one in the Lord,
2. We will walk with each oth - er, we will walk hand in hand,
3. We will work with each oth - er, we will work side by side,
4. All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come,

Am Em

we are one in the Spir - it, we are one in the Lord,
we will walk with each oth - er, we will walk hand in hand,
we will work with each oth - er, we will work side by side,
and all praise to Christ Je - sus, God's on - ly Son,

Am Em

and we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored:
and to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land:
and we'll guard each one's dig - ni - ty and save each one's pride:
and all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one:

Refrain C G C G Em Am

And they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love, by our love,

Em Am Bm Em

yes, they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Prayers of the People

Time to honor those lost in the line of service

Pastor: O God, in your grace and mercy . . .

Response: Hear your people at prayer.

You will also be invited to offer your personal prayers from the silence of your heart.

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

All: Our Father**, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy Kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever. Amen.

**We believe that God is revealed in persons of all genders and sorts; we also honor tradition.

Offertory

Oh, Send Out Thy Light

Healey Willan

Today's collection will go to the UCC Strengthen the Church Collection.

*Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God, all creatures here below
Praise God above, you heavenly host:
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*Offertory Prayer

Generous God, as we remember the excitement and wonder of our church's nascent days, let us look forward to our future as well. Bless these gifts that we offer with joyful hearts. Guide us to use them with love and openness, to proclaim the excitement of your good news, the wonder of your love. Amen.

SENDING

***Hymn** Come, Let Us Join with Faithful Souls NCH (black) #383

***Choral Benediction** Out of the Depths I Cry to You Mark Sedio

***Pastoral Benediction**

Postlude America the Beautiful arr. Marilyn Ham

The Postlude ends our gathered worship and sends us into the world where our true service begins.
Feel free to let the music lead you out, or stay to listen, however the Spirit moves you.

Keeping in Prayer:

Prayers for Alice Carey, friend of Alice O'Connor, who will be undergoing surgery

Prayers of joy for Natalie Boyer and Rohan Magrauth, who will be graduating high school

Prayers of joy for Weston Hyde, who has graduated college

Prayers of gratitude that Megan Magrauth is recovering well

Prayers and condolences for the family and friends of Butch Castor's cousin Paula,
who recently passed away

Prayers for the family and friends of Cheryl Bernier

Prayers for Sherry Weymouth Morison, who is recuperating from cancer surgery

Prayers for Martha Richards, friend of Alice O'Connor

Prayers of comfort and strength for Ruth & Dale Mosher

Prayers for Matt, family member of Ruth Martz & Steve Majeski

Prayers for Sage Pirnie and her family, granddaughter of Diane Arsenault and Pete Pirnie

Prayers for Ellen who struggles with cancer, family member of Ruth & Dale Mosher

Prayers of healing for Sue Switaj

Prayers for Alice Avery

Prayers for Polly Bartlett, who struggles with cancer

Prayers for Masvingo Church, our partner church in Zimbabwe

If you have a prayer request, you would like Rev. Holland to include in Sunday Worship, please write on the yellow card in the pews and place it in the offering tray, or send an email to plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org

This Week and More at PCUCC

Tuesday, May 30	7:00 pm AA Meeting
Wednesday, May 31	9:30 am Lectio Divina
Wednesday, May 31	11:30 am Staff Meeting
Friday, June 2	5:00 pm Plymouth Regional High School Baccalaureate
Friday, June 2	8:00 pm AA Meeting
Thursday, June 8	1:00 pm Knitting Group
Sunday, June 18	10:30 am <u>Annual Congregational Meeting</u>

CHURCH LIFE

Youth Mission Fundraiser: At the end of this month our youth will be “greening up” local areas by collecting trash and recyclables and bringing them to a transfer station. You can support them by donating \$10 for them to fill a small garbage bag or \$20 to fill a large garbage bag. Your money will go towards their youth trip at Horton Center and towards helping the environment! Make a check out to PCUCC and write “Youth mission trip” in the memo or make a gift at uccplymouth.org/give and select 2023 Missional Service Trip.

3rd Sundays – New Members! To live more fully into God’s call to be inclusive, every 3rd Sunday will be New Member Sunday. Whether people join or not, we will be ready to welcome folks every month. As people join, we will ask them faith-related questions including confirmation of their willingness to attend a simple class. We hope these efforts are fruitful – all are welcome to follow the gospel call!

FROM FINANCE

Stewardship Update: As of May 24th, we have received 35 pledges totaling \$138,680 towards our goal of \$180,000.

If you have already submitted your 2023-24 pledge, we thank you. Your financial gifts and stewardship support make a difference in helping our church reach people with the Good News of Jesus Christ. If you have not yet pledged, we ask that you prayerfully consider your financial support and send your pledge to PCUCC Finance by US mail at PO Box 86, Plymouth, NH 03264, or by email to treasurer@uccplymouth.org. Extra pledge cards can be found in the pews, on the table by the office or on the Constant Contact link.

With your support, we will continue to maintain our important ministry and mission. Because of you, our church changes lives.

Support PCUCC with no cost to you! Purchase a **Hannaford Gift Card** in the amount of \$100, \$250, or \$500 by contacting Linda LaPrad or Ann Thurston. For every card purchased from the Finance Committee, the church receives 5% with no additional cost to you.

We will offer the option of meeting digitally indefinitely. You may also catch our services (one week delayed) on Sunday nights on PBTv at 7:00 pm. (Local channel 1302.) Please check Constant Contact and the Facebook page for ongoing updates.

Office Hours

Tuesday – Friday 9:00-2:00

Pastor’s Office Hours

Monday – Wednesday 10:30 AM – 3:30 PM or by appointment.

Rev. Holland keeps sabbath on Friday.

Email: plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org

Work Cell: 336-485-5618

Rev. Sammy Holland, Pastor	plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org
Alison Thatcher, Office Administrator	office@uccplymouth.org
David A. Williams, Director of Music	musicdirector@uccplymouth.org
Ashley Rose, Organist, Pianist	organist@uccplymouth.org
Jennifer Byam, Director of Faith Formation	faithformation@uccplymouth.org
Ann Thurston, Treasurer	treasurer@uccplymouth.org
Guest Preacher: Alison Thatcher	
Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ 4 Post Office Square, P.O. Box 86 Plymouth, NH 03264 (603) 536-2626 - office@uccplymouth.org - www.uccplymouth.org	

Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries in June in our Community

If you have a birthday or anniversary this month or next,
please email to: office@uccplymouth.org

Anna Boyer	June 6	Jay Buckley	June 23
Alice Avery	June 8	Eleanor Spencer	June 24
Kimberly Berman	June 10	Mary Bohn Reynolds	June 25
Abigail Ball	June 13	Wesley Ball	June 29
Eddie Doherty	June 19	Mona Hoefs	June 29
Murray Swindell	June 22	Rebecca Larson	June 30

